

(b) Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 10-15 as follows. A detailed listing of the claims which replaces the previous listing is as follows:

Claims 1 - 9 (Cancelled)

10. (New) A process for producing a structure having holes, comprising the steps of:

providing on a substrate to be anodized a first member having a patterning layer comprised of a material soluble at anodization;

impressing a second member having protrusions on the patterning layer to form a protrusion-depression structure at the patterning layer; and

forming holes on the substrate by anodizing the substrate, wherein the anodizing is conducted by allowing a portion consisting of a material comprising the patterning layer to remain as the depression portion of the protrusion-depression structure and starting the anodizing from the bottom of the depression portion.

11. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the patterning layer is constituted by a material being of lower strength than a material constituting the second member.

12. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the patterning layer contains an alkoxide.

13. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the height of the protrusion portion of the second member is greater than the thickness of the patterning layer.

14. (New) A process for producing a functional structure, which comprises a step of filling the holes formed in the process according to claim 10 with a functional material.

15. (New) A process for producing a magnetic recording medium, wherein the functional material in the process according to claim 10 is a magnetic material.